

Element Play

TEP Exhibition: *Out of Line*



Utah Division of
Arts & Museums

Intentions

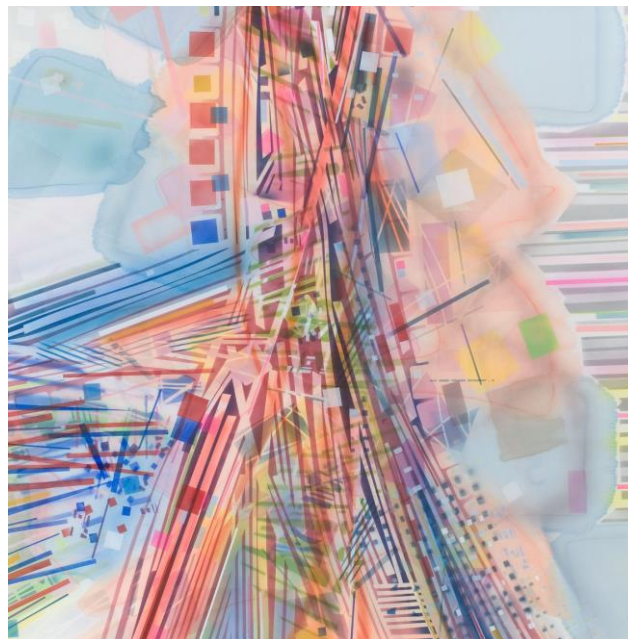
- Students will learn and explore basic elements such as line, shape, color, and texture.
- Students will become familiar with collage techniques employing the elements.
- Students will employ the use of abstraction to explore the basic elements.

Materials

- Legal size card stock approximately 12x18 or heavy-weight paper
- Vellum paper
- Colored tissue paper and colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Optional: objects [for texture rubbings](#): fabric, tinfoil, baskets, texture plates, leaves etc.

Back drop

The ***Out of Line*** exhibition, features artworks from the State of Utah Fine Art Collection. These works explore the colliding influences of multiple national and international art movements on Utah artists in the late 20th century. Many of the works in this exhibition can be described by or fit into one or more artistic periods, including: geometric abstraction, abstract expressionism, formalism, color field painting, modernism, and others. The result is an exhibition that gives audiences the opportunity to explore what these artistic movements mean when the delineations between them become muddled, and when an artist's body of work evolves over time to combine these interconnected aesthetics. Included in *Out of Line* are works that explore the interplay between abstraction and iconography, formalist and symbolic geometry, and expressive abstraction and rigid structure. In some cases, sparse but calculated compositions balance simple geometric shapes with repeating patterns or saturated backgrounds. In other works, the emotive and loose structure of expressionism meets playful color palettes and clearly emerging repetitions which call upon the traditions of modernism and abstraction simultaneously. What emerges is a collection of works which represent Utah artists fusing together the vocabulary of multiple influences during the same period, to create an intriguing genre of art which addresses competing ideologies and principles of art concurrently.



Bonnie Phillips, Plan C-Triptych (B)

Activity

- Ask students what the word abstract means. ABSTRACT ART-*Abstract art* can be a painting or sculpture (including assemblage) that does not depict a person, place or thing in the natural world.
- [Introduce students to the art elements](#) including line, shape, space, color, and texture.
- Use the heavy card stock paper as the base for the project. Students will begin to layer onto this.
- Optional: Invite students to experiment with adding texture to any of these materials. Students can use crayons, charcoal, or a similar material to create texture rubbings on the cut-out elements.
- Invite students to cut out varying sizes of abstract shapes from the construction paper, vellum, and tissue paper. Sometimes step by step instructions work best. For example, start with cutting out lines, then shapes, then add texture. Encourage students to use various colors and sizes along the way.
- Examine works from the exhibition such as Michael Clan Graves' that have a lot of empty space, or those such as Bonnie Susec's that are busy, layered, and employ transparency. The works of Bonnie Phillips and Susan Carol employ more uniform spacing in their arrangement of elements.
- Before gluing the materials down, encourage students to arrange and re-arrange or add and subtract the various elements. Encourage students to overlap the cutouts. Draw attention to places on the paper that have empty and full space in the composition. Students can also turn or orient their paper in different ways to examine their desired composition. Compare how Ronald V. Clayton and Jen Shurtliff employ (or don't) color.
- Once students have practiced a layout, the elements can be glued onto the paper.
- Compare the compositions amongst the class and the effects or feelings they create in the work.
- Additions: Try implementing parameters like minimal use of color, excessive use of space, or prompts such as "Cut 3 lines, and 2 large shapes."

LINKS WE LIKE:

[ABSTRACT ART](#)

[ELEMENTS OF ART](#)

[TEXTURE RUBBING DEMO](#)

[COLLAGE LESSONS](#)

Links to the Core

Visual Arts: *

- Explore a variety of art materials while learning new techniques and processes.
- The student will analyze, reflect on, and apply the structures of art
- The student will choose and evaluate artistic subject matter, themes, symbols, ideas, meanings, and purposes.

Language Arts: *

- Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.*
- Use a variety of formats in presenting with various forms of media.

Social Studies: Talk about the historical context for [abstract painting](#).

**indicates link to Common Core*